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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

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of Ministers

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Item III.3 of the provisional agenda\*

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA)  
DECLARATION ON THE CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA  
(GA RESOLUTION 39/29 ANNEX) AND THEIR PROPOSED  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LONG-TERM ASPECTS  
OF THE CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

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Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

1. The response of the Economic Commission for Africa to General Assembly Declaration (39/29 Annex) on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa has been immediate and wide ranging and can be most fruitfully examined within the framework of the activities leading to the adoption of the declaration. This is because the declaration is a direct response to the Commission's Ministers' special memorandum to the Economic and Social Council on the critical economic and social crisis facing the continent. Accordingly, and since some of the measures adopted before the declaration provided a continuing reaction to that crisis ECA's response to the declaration is reviewed under the following sections: Responses to the crisis; Responses to the declaration; and Mobilizing resources for the crisis.

I. Responses to the crisis

2. The response to the crisis has consisted of first, assistance to member States and their intergovernmental institutions and secondly, in sensitizing the international community on the nature, scope and origins of the crisis.

(a) Assistance to member States and their intergovernmental institutions

3. ECA produced several additional outputs to those already in the Programme of Work and Priorities for the Biennium 1984-1985 so as to respond effectively and in concert with other agencies to the crisis facing Africa.

The additional outputs were in the form of:

- (a) Substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings, including support of negotiations;
- (b) Reports to intergovernmental bodies;
- (c) Technical publications, including sales publications, periodicals, computer printouts and tapes and ad-hoc information services;
- (d) Public information services;
- (e) Technical assistance projects and advisory services;
- (f) Grants and fellowships;
- (g) Other final output not separately identified above, but fully described at each occurrence.

4. All together, more than 124 additional outputs are expected to be implemented in the biennium 1984-1985, a large proportion of which will be in response to the current crisis. An Annex "Additional outputs in Food and Agriculture in Africa and Environment in Africa provides details of such outputs implemented in response to the current crisis.

5. The proposed Programme of Work and Priorities for the Biennium 1986-1987 (E/ECA/CM.11/56) has, in addition to being based on the International Development Strategy as revised in 1984 and the Lagos Plan of Action including the Final Act of Lagos, also been prepared to include measures which the secretariat believes the Commission would adopt in dealing with aspects of the crisis. The various Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) of the Commission have also been requested by member States to put stress in their work on drought, desertification and the economic crisis, and the specific activities, expected of the secretariat are detailed in the reports of the 1985 meetings of MULPOC Council of Ministers which have just been concluded. The reports were presented to the twentieth session of the Commission/eleventh meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers which approved them.

6. Besides food and agriculture, industry, and transport and communications, priority will also be given to the development and utilization of mineral resources particularly copper and aluminium as recommended by the Second Regional Conference on the development and utilization of mineral resources in Africa. Also, particular emphasis will be put on the development of an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development which is being implemented in collaboration with WMO.

7. Further, towards the end of 1984 ECA provided office accommodation to the Office of the Assistance Secretary General for Emergency Operations in Ethiopia so as to enable that Office discharge its responsibilities in meeting the critical food needs and the logistics required for its distribution to the affected areas of Ethiopia.

(b) Sensitizing the international community on the nature, scope and origins of Africa's economic and social crisis

8. At its 19th session in 1984, the Commission adopted a Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis calling on the international community to come to Africa's assistance. That memorandum stated, inter alia that the "prolonged drought ... exacerbated an already unfavourable food situation ... triggered off critical famine, malnutrition, and related diseases, loss of human lives, sharp depletion of livestock, water shortages ...". The memorandum was subsequently discussed by ECOSOC and the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and was the basis for the GA declaration to which this review is a response.

9. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa has also, in his role as Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the African economic crisis, directed the work of the Nairobi Office on the African economic crisis. That Office was established by the Secretary-General in February 1984 as an inter-agency office and opened operations in April 1984. Participating agencies included UNDP, UNDRO, UNICEF, WFP, WIPO, ILO, UNCTAD, World Bank and FAO. The Office prepared a framework for monitoring the crisis, consulted with UN Resident Co-ordinators regarding the compilation of data, compiled and prepared country files on the crisis. The Office also made inputs into the Secretary-General's reports on the critical social and economic situation in Africa which were submitted to ECOSOC (July 1984) and the General Assembly (October 1984).

10. In his new capacity as Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Operations in Africa, the Executive Secretary has continued to play his role of consulting with the other UN agencies on the critical economic situation. He has also visited many adversely affected countries and discussed with their Heads of State and Government the countries' requirements to deal with the crisis. On many occasions such as that of the Conference of International Development held in Washington DC (March 1985) he has presented the case for Africa's need for external assistance. He also seized the opportunity of his presence in Washington DC to address a group of interested congressmen. In November 1984, at the University of Dalhousie, Canada, the Executive Secretary had also presented Africa's case to the world.

## II. Responses to the declaration

11. The theme of the Commission's 20th session/11th meeting of its Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning has been made "African economic and social crisis: Review, Prospects and Perspectives" in response to General Assembly Declaration 39/29 Annex. In this connection, the Conference has had to examine not only the economic and social situation in Africa since 1980 with emphasis on the last three years, but also all the papers prepared for the 21st Summit of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity scheduled for July 1985.

12. The examination and discussion of the documents on the economic issues coming before the 21st Summit of the Organization of African Unity was in response to the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its 41st session in February/March 1985 to involve the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for economic planning in Africa in the preparation for the 21st Assembly and its request to the Conference to focus its deliberations at its eleventh meeting in April 1985 on the economic issues in the draft agenda for the "21st Summit and to recommend measures to be taken including proposals for the follow-up and monitoring."

13. Thus the Conference assisted by its Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole had an indepth analysis of the issues concerned as shown below and made appropriate recommendations which are concrete action-oriented and implementable at the national, subregional, regional and international levels:

### Economic issues coming before the twenty-first Summit of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity as agreed by the Forty-first Session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization, Addis Ababa, 25 February - 4 March 1985

1. The Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos: assessment and measures for accelerated implementation:

(a) Progress report on the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos:

- (i) By member States;
- (ii) By African and international organizations;
- (iii) By the OAU and ECA secretariats.

(b) Economic and Social situation in Africa, 1980-1985:

- (i) Review and appraisal of economic performance in Africa, 1980-1985 in the light of the International Development Strategy and the Lagos Plan of Action;

- (ii) Survey of economic and social conditions in the least developed African countries, 1981-1984;
- (iii) Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in African least developed countries;

- (iv) Evaluation of the implementation of the Regional Food Plan for Africa (1978-1984) and a preliminary assessment of the food and agricultural aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action;

- (v) Progress report on the implementation of the Mar del Plata Plan of Action in Africa, 1978-1984;

- (vi) Evaluation of the physical implementation of the first phase (1980-1983) of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;

- (vii) Review and appraisal of the achievements in the integration of women in the development process within the context of the United Nations Decade for Women;

- (viii) The balance-of-payments problems of African developing countries: identification and reassessment;

- (ix) Study on foreign exchange leakages in Africa.

(c) Practical sectoral measures for the accelerated attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos:

- (i) Development and population policies;

- (ii) The Arusha Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of African Women Beyond the United Nations Decade for Women;

- (iii) Human resources and development;

- (a) The crisis of unemployment and human resources management;

- (b) Human resources management in Africa: an agenda for action;

- (iv) Development and utilization of mineral resources in Africa: programme of action;

- (v) Developing African capabilities for the exploration, exploitation and development of marine resources in Africa;

- (vi) Development of ocean energy;

- (vii) Industrial development;

- (viii) Science and technology for development;
  - (ix) Transport and communications;
  - (x) Domestic and intra-African trade and finance;
  - (xi) Economic and technical co-operation;
  - (xii) Establishing the African Monetary Fund: progress report;
  - (xiii) Improving the management of African economies: Some problematic areas.
2. Special programme of action for improvement of the food situation and rehabilitation of agricultural development in Africa;
- (a) Immediate measures to combat food emergencies;
  - (b) Emergency measures: preliminary perspectives for the African emergency situation and rehabilitation needs, 1985;
  - (c) Medium-term measures: rehabilitation of African agriculture:
    - (i) Africa's Food and Agriculture Crisis - Prospects and proposals for 1985 and 1986;
    - (ii) The crisis and water development, conservation and utilization;
    - (iii) The crisis and rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructural facilities;
    - (iv) The crisis and industrial rehabilitation and revitalization.
  - (d) Structural reforms: long-term measures:
    - (i) Proposals for food and agricultural development, 1986-1990;
    - (ii) Comprehensive policies and programmes for Livestock Development in Africa:
      - (a) Volume I "Problems, Constraints and Necessary Future Action";
      - (b) Volume II The Performance of the Livestock Sector 1968-1982.
    - (iii) Problems and prospects for harmonization of forestry policies in Africa;

(iv) Improving the capacity for agricultural planning and policies in Africa:

(a) A reconsideration of planning approaches;

(b) Strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of agricultural projects programmes in Africa.

(e) Drought and desertification control: long-term measures for combating drought and desertification;

(f) Refugees, displaced persons and victims of natural disasters.

3. External debt:

(a) Emergency measures;

(b) Medium-term measures;

(c) Long-term measures.

4. Proposals for a common platform for action:

(a) Among OAU member States:

(i) Subregional level: subregional approach to national survival;

(ii) African regional level.

(b) At the international level;

(c) The economies of the Front-line States and the destabilization policies of South Africa: proposals for action (subregional, regional and international).

14. Another related issues which the Conference dealt with at its eleventh meeting concerned the proposed review of the immediate and long-term aspects of the African economic and social crisis by ECOSOC at its 1985 second regular session in July 1985. In this connection, just as the Conference prepared a special memorandum on the African economic crisis for consideration by the Council at its 1984 second regular session and the Organization of African Unity at its 20th session in November 1984, the conference prepared a second special memorandum but this time on the requirements for long-term development and economic growth in Africa and on the support of the international community for consideration by the Council at its 1985 second regular session.

15. The Economic Commission for Africa will have to redirect its activities so as to assist member States meet the priorities as determined by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in response to the Recommendations of the ECA Conference of Ministers concerning the Economic Issues of the Draft Agenda of the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity.

### III. Mobilizing resources for the crisis

16. On account of the crisis, the ECA, in its appeal for additional resources, commensurate with the scale of the problem facing the continent for supplementing and strengthening its work programme for the 1986-1987 biennium, is putting the highest priority on agriculture and related sectors. In this connection a number of projects are being presented for funding by member States and other donors during the fifth pledging conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development on 27 April 1985. Projects in Food and Agriculture and related sectors alone account for 58 per cent of the total cost of all projects.

17. Overall, ECA is also strengthening its resource mobilization efforts and will be undertaking activities to strengthen its project evaluation capabilities. In respect of ECA sponsored institutions, ECA has been requested by the ECA Conference of Ministers to arrange meetings with host governments, donor agencies and participating member States so as to determine which of the options recommended by the Conference of Ministers should be implemented. The objective of this exercise will be to render such institutions as will remain more effective and give them greater certainty on the availability of resources so that they can contribute effectively to the solution of the crisis.

18. ECA's response to the General Assembly declaration on the critical economic situation in Africa comprises its activities in reaction to the crisis itself and activities after the adoption of the declaration. These activities have included provision of goods and services to member States and their intergovernmental organizations particularly in food and agriculture and environment. Some activities such as the development of an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development continue to get the attention of ECA and other agencies of the United Nations system.

19. The reaction to the declaration itself has resulted in the adoption of short-term (rehabilitation), medium and long-term strategies and measures for the accelerated implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. A second special memorandum by the Conference of Ministers but with emphasis on relaunching the initiative for long-term development and economic growth in Africa will be submitted to ECOSOC at its 1985 second regular session in July 1985. Similarly, the Recommendations of the ECA Conference of Ministers concerning the Economic Issues on the Draft Agenda of the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity will be submitted to the OAU for the summit in July 1985.



Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)Critical Economic Situation in Africa

20. Alongside its continuing assistance for the development of agriculture and, in particular, the enhancement of food self-sufficiency in Africa, FAO has undertaken various actions to assist African countries specifically in dealing with the current food crisis. Broadly, these actions consist in the continual monitoring of the food situation and issuing timely alerts of threatening shortages, the approval of emergency food aid supplies from the International Emergency Food Reserve, and the mobilization of assistance for the control of plant and animal disease and pest outbreaks, for the rehabilitation of agriculture following disasters, and for strengthening preparedness in the event of future disasters.

21. During 1983/84 additional resources were allocated to the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) which intensified its monitoring of the food situation in African countries in 1984/85. The joint FAO/WFP Task Force set up by the Director-General of FAO in April 1984 continues to review regularly the situation in each of the most seriously affected countries and to propose actions. Seven situation reports have been issued by the Task Force so far. On the basis of these reports, the Director-General has issued several international appeals for aid to the affected countries. Missions mounted to several countries to assess the prospects for main season 1984 harvests provided a basis for estimating cereal import and food aid requirements in 1984/85.

22. In view of the critical food security situation in many African countries, the FAO Food Security Assistance Scheme (FSAS) has concentrated the vast majority of its activities in Africa. Out of 54 trust fund projects, which currently are operational or ready to become operational, worth US\$34.6 million, 35 projects amounting to US\$23.7 million, i.e. 68 per cent, are in favour of countries in Africa, especially Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia.

23. FAO assistance to rinderpest control projects in Africa amounted to US\$4.9 million under the TCP in 1983. Twenty seven countries were assisted that year, and there were two regional projects in support of the OAU Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources. In 1984, eight projects, totalling US\$1.1 million, were approved for TCP assistance in seven countries. In addition, eight regional projects have been approved for TCP funding amounting to US\$1.2 million. By June 1984, 28 national rinderpest projects had been prepared by FAO for implementation under the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign. Funding is being sought for these projects. FAO held a donor information meeting in June 1984, and further contacts with donors are under way.

24. A considerable volume of assistance has been mobilized mainly under the Office for Special Operations (OSRO), the Technical Co-operation Programme (TCP) and the United Nations Emergency Operations Trust Fund (UNEO), in support of measures for post-emergency agricultural rehabilitation in Africa. These resources have enabled the Organization to provide assistance in the form of supplies of seeds, fertilizer, animal feed, pesticides and insecticides, animal vaccines and other drugs, agricultural and transport equipment and machinery,

and spares; technical assistance for the effective use of these inputs; water supplies, village storage and food processing facilities; and similar other facilities and related technical inputs to promote agricultural recovery and preparedness in the affected countries. As at December 1984, FAO was implementing 62 emergency-related field projects (including the rinderpest control projects referred to earlier) in sub-Saharan Africa. Several additional projects have been approved since then, especially under TCP.

25. In December 1984, an FAO/Multidonor Mission visited Ethiopia and identified 21 emergency projects and 28 medium-term projects, entailing US\$95 million and US\$31 million in external assistance, respectively. These projects were submitted to prospective donors at a special conference called by FAO on 30 January 1985. Some of the project proposals have been accepted for funding by donors; others are still under consideration.

26. FAO has also undertaken a major exercise to identify the immediate agricultural rehabilitation needs of 20 other African countries most seriously affected by drought and other calamities. Close to 200 emergency and medium-term agricultural rehabilitation project proposals for external assistance (with a total cost of about US\$110 million) have been formulated and were presented to a major conference on African agricultural rehabilitation, which took place on 29 March 1985 at FAO headquarters in Rome. A number of donors expressed willingness to examine these projects for eventual support.

27. In addition to the mobilization of donor assistance, FAO is itself channelling additional regular programme resources in support of agricultural rehabilitation and post-emergency measures. Thus, US\$5 million is to be generated for this purpose through a refocusing of activities under FAO's regular programme activities. A further US\$5 million is earmarked under FAO's Technical Co-operation Programme.

#### Longer Term Programmes and Priorities

28. In recognition of the peculiarly acute needs of Africa, this region has been the principal focus of FAO's activities over recent years. Almost two-thirds of FAO's Field Programme activities are now in Sub-Saharan Africa. The estimated total expenditure on these programmes amounted to US\$120 million in 1984 more than 20 per cent higher than the previous year. There are moreover some 600 field project proposals in the pipeline, with a total value of about US\$700 million. This provides a considerable basis for reinforcing FAO's field activities in the region over the medium and long term, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources. The focus on Africa is equally evident in the allocation of resources under FAO's Regular Budget. In the current biennium, 40 per cent of total Regular Budget resources are devoted to Sub-Saharan Africa, far in excess to the relative size of this region in population terms. Moreover, allocations to Sub-Saharan Africa during 1984-1985 represent a 50 per cent increase over the preceding biennium.

29. Medium and long-term priorities have been identified in the following fields: natural resources management and development; crop production, livestock development; Research and technology development; rural development; nutrition; food and agricultural information, analysis and policy; fisheries; forestry; and mobilization of investment resources.

### Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries

30. FAO has given full recognition to economic and technical co-operation as effective tools for developing countries, particularly those of Africa, to seek collective self-reliance and as necessary instruments towards a restructuring of international economic relations.

31. Powerful vehicles for the enhancement of E/TCDC are the FAO's Special Action Programmes which by essence focus on urgent problems affecting food and agricultural development. These programmes include, among others, the Programme of Assistance in the Development and Management of Fisheries in Exclusive Economic Zones, the Action Programmes against African Animal Trypanosomiasis and the desert locust, the Food Security Assistance Scheme, itself only one of FAO's operational arms in its more general action towards a lasting world food security.

32. With respect to support to ECDC, FAO dovetails efforts in other United Nations fora to foster joint action and intra-developing countries' strade through the activities of its specialized intergovernmental community groups.

33. Regional and sub-regional co-operation schemes including integration bodies provide natural channels for FAO's contributions to E/TCDC in food and agriculture. Examples of such bodies with which FAO has close collaboration are: CILSS, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC) and the South African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC). Generally, collaboration involves formulation of agricultural development strategies and agricultural planning within the framework of regional co-operation identification of mechanisms and procedures for the expansion of intra-regional agricultural trade and assistance in the design and implementation of regional food security schemes.

34. Among the activities of special interest in the area of TCDC, the Forest Industries Advisory Group may be mentioned. The objective of the project, financed by UNDP, is to assist the African region and individual countries in the development of forest industries and train appropriate personnel. Other similar examples of TCDC activities can be found in such areas as land and water development, animal production, crop production, fisheries, rural development and nutrition. In 1984, a "Directory of agricultural education and training institutions in Africa" was issued by FAO. It is expected to promote TCDC in the field of education and training.

### Other related action

35. Over recent months, FAO has collaborated with ECA in the preparation of the following papers for presentation to the government bodies of ECA:

- "Evaluation of the Implementation of the Regional Food Plan for Africa and a Preliminary Assessment of the Food and Agricultural Aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action."
- "Proposals for the Development of the Food and Agricultural Sector, 1986-1990."
- "Critical Food and Agricultural Situation in Africa, and Prospects and Proposals for 1985/86."

36. The last paper will also eventually be presented to ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

37. FAO has provided a consultant to ECA/OAU for the preparation of a paper entitled "Special Programme of Action for improvement of the food situation and rehabilitation in Africa." This paper will be presented to the OAU Summit Meeting in July 1985.

38. Following a recommendation made by the 13th FAO Regional Conference for Africa, Harare, Zimbabwe, in July 1984, FAO is currently undertaking a study entitled "In-depth study of agricultural and food problems in Africa" which is intended to identify critical constraints and problems confronting African agriculture.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

39. The response of the ILO to the United Nations General Assembly Declaration on «the Critical Economic Situation in Africa» is best illustrated in the ILO's operational activities in assisting African States to overcome their immediate, medium and long-term problems. The operational activities relate to:

«(a) the alleviation of immediate and urgent problems concerning famine, food production and food distribution;

(b) the development and implementation of medium and long-term policies aimed at reducing the effect of drought in the future, increasing food production and improving food distribution; and

(c) ensuring the sustained social and economic development of the African countries concerned» 1/

Role of the ILO 2/

40. The ILO has been responding to the critical economic situation by first placing its operational activities in Africa within the context of concerted action to be taken by the United Nations system. This explains why the Director-General responded immediately to the request of the United Nations Secretary-General by nominating the Director of the ILO Office in Dar-es-Salaam as the Office's representative to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and by appointing a focal point within the Office for all questions relating to the present situation in Africa. Within this context the ILO intends, in accordance with its mandate, to concentrate on the social and human resources aspects of the present difficult situation.

41. Since the ILO believes that the present urgent and acute problem of food shortages is basically the product of a long-term and much larger developmental problem having many varied aspects, its operational activities logically put the emphasis on the development aspects.

42. The size of the ILO's operational programmes for Africa depends on the financial resources that can be mobilized from the UNDP, development banks and multi-bilateral donors. The ILO's regular budget technical co-operation resources in 1984-85 are too modest to respond to the increasing needs of African countries, and can only serve to supplement other available resources. The Director-General has therefore included in the 1986-87 Programme and Budget Proposals, a special allocation as the ILO's contribution to the UN system-wide effort in Africa called for by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Meanwhile, the ILO has released funds for the 1985 period, to commission advisory services and preparatory work aimed at generating projects for alleviating the hardships resulting from the drought situation.

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1/ ILO, EB229/OP/3/4, 229th session, Geneva, February-March, 1985.

2/ See ILO GB 229/OP/3/4 229th Session Geneva, February-March, 1985.

43. More than 43 per cent of the ILO's operational programmes in 1983 were in Africa. In the first six months of 1984 the value of newly approved projects trippled as compared with the same period in 1983.

#### A. ACTION IN THE SHORT-TERM

44. For the emergency situation, especially the problem of food shortages, the ILO's role would be in the provision of assistance and support to remove the logistical and operational bottlenecks which are preventing relief assistance from reaching those in need. Such assistance covers managerial and training activities in:

- (a) Management of ports;
- (b) Management of truck fleets;
- (c) Repair and maintenance of trucks and vehicles;
- (d) Human resources for water management;
- (e) Construction and rehabilitation of wells and the repair and maintenance of water pumps;

In addition:

- (i) ILO's Special Public Works Programmes (SPWP) can assist governments in constructing new roads and maintaining and repairing old ones, using labour-intensive techniques especially in remote rural areas, where roads are either non-existent or difficult to pass.
- (ii) The ILO will emphasize more and more the participatory role of co-operatives in the development process and will focus its activities in the drought stricken areas on the strengthening of this type of co-operative's capacity. Priority will be given to co-operatives involved in food storage and distribution, both in rural and urban areas.

#### B. LONG-TERM ACTION

45. The ILO's long-term operational activities will be guided by the conclusions of ILO regional meetings and the Lagos Plan of Action as a framework of long-term development policy in Africa, and also by the priorities identified in national development plans. However, in the present circumstances priority will have to be given to basic issues which have a direct bearing both on food production and on overall development in Africa. The role of the ILO's operational programmes in dealing with these long-term issues is discussed below:

##### (a) Employment and development

46. The ILO, in collaboration with JASPA and SATEP will focus on priority areas which will include:

(i) Rural development

47. While the FAO has primary responsibility for increasing and improving agricultural production, the ILO's operational programmes can support these endeavours. In the first place, the special public works programmes can assist African member States in the development and construction of irrigation schemes, land development and reafforestation, using labour-intensive techniques. Secondly the ILO can assist in introducing appropriate agricultural technology in the development, repair and maintenance of agricultural tools and equipment, and in the training of manpower in the installation, repair and maintenance of water pumps and the construction and rehabilitation of wells.

48. The ILO can also help to identify constraints affecting increased food production, promote institutional reforms and off-farm employment. It can provide advisory services to enable member States to create new employment opportunities for youth in rural areas and to integrate youth and women in the development process in rural areas.

(ii) Special public works programme (SPWP)

49. In the short, medium and long-term the Special Public Works Programmes (SPWP) which represents a strong social aspect of development objectives, will help impart basic skills to unskilled labour, involve local communities in the formulation of projects, foster the collaboration of social groups, promote the development of local production tools, and assist in the creation of jobs.

50. Currently SPWPs are under implementation in eleven African countries (all LDCs) i.e. Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Capé Verde, Mali, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda. New programmes have been designed awaiting funding in Ethiopia, Madagascar and Mauritania, while Botswana, Niger, Senegal and Zimbabwe have recently shown interest in SPWP assistance. These «major programmes for minor works» generally comprise activities in: irrigation, swamp reclamation and other water supply and related activities; reafforestation and soil conservation works; village access and crop extraction roads; and rural infrastructural works providing basic community facilities (housing, schools, health centres, grain stores, etc.).

(iii) Urban informal sector

51. The ILO can be of assistance to member States in identifying constraints affecting the development of certain subsectors of the urban informal sector (e.g. manufacturing, construction, transportation, various services, trades etc.), in improving conditions of work and environment, in developing the most appropriate and effective vocational and entrepreneurial training schemes and methods, and in establishing co-operatives, in particular labour co-operatives, in this sector.

(iv) Employment impact of investment projects

52. The ILO is prepared to collaborate with various donors, including development banks, and with the governments concerned, in assessing the employment impact of the investment and technological choices within the framework of national priorities with a view to helping African governments achieve the objectives of their development plans.

(b) Education and training

53. The ILO will assist education and training policies with a view to:

- (i) achieving equal opportunity in education and training;
- (ii) increasing education and training opportunities; and
- (iii) increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of education and training systems.

Vocational training

54. The ILO in collaboration with the African Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CIADFOR), can play a crucial role in vocational training. It can intensify its assistance to African governments in conceiving and formulating sound training policies, adjusting or rationalizing these policies and in implementing them. More precisely, the ILO will have to place emphasis on:

- (i) Matching training programmes to the requirements of the labour market;
- (ii) Sectoral training - the four main sectors in which ILO's assistance will have to concentrate are:
  - (a) rural non-farm occupations;
  - (b) food sector;
  - (c) training of workers in the urban informal sector, and
  - (d) transport sector.
- (iii) Training of managers in public, parastatal and private enterprises.

55. Furthermore, in view of the role of women in the production of food, the ILO can strengthen those of its activities which help in involving women in the development of their communities.

(c) Development of institutions

56. The ILO's operational programmes will continue to contribute to the promotion and strengthening of such institutions as co-operatives, social security institutions, small enterprises, and employers' and workers' organizations.



57. In view of the relatively limited resources available and the enormity of the problem, ILO operational programmes will have to be selective and concentrate on the social and human resources aspects of development. They will have to address the basic and most fundamental problems in the short, medium and long-term and focus their attention on helping to solve the present crisis in Africa.

(b) International Trade Centre (ITC)

58. The contribution of ITC in response to the General Assembly Declaration on the critical economic situation in Africa GA Resolution 39/29 (Annex) under, medium- and longer-term aspects are, in addition to on-going related projects, envisaged in the following areas:

(a) Commodity related activities in light of UNCTAD resolution 158 (vi) for marketing and distribution of commodities of special interest to Africa such as cotton, coffee, cocoa, vegetable oils, sugar, tropical timber and hard-fibres;

(b) Supply and demand surveys at intra-regional level with main objective of fostering intra-regional and intra-African trade;

(c) Pertinent activities under import operations and techniques;

(d) Co-operation with the United Nations Sahelian Office (UNSO) in contributing to efforts against desertification;

(e) Export potential assessments;

(f) Development and promotion of trade in selected products;

(g) Human resources development both in direct training and institution strengthening thus contributing to African self-reliance. Special attention is being paid to include training programmes for development of African entrepreneurship including women entrepreneurs and senior women managers.

59. Above subject areas are not exhaustive but ITC is confident that they will contribute toward compensating for the short fall in African export earnings as mentioned in General Assembly Resolution 39/29.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

(a) Least Developed and Land-locked countries

60. The immediate action component of the Substantial New Programme of Action recognizes that in order to lay the ground for the effective implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action and ensure that medium and longer-term development is not prejudiced, immediate attention should be given to the LDCs most urgent needs including inter-alia provision of substantial resources to give urgent and prompt relief to acute shortages of critical commodities particularly food and energy. Other measures include debt relief and balance of payments support and urgent and substantial emergency assistance in order to mitigate the effects of natural and man-made disasters.

61. Preparations are well under way for the mid-term global review scheduled for 30 September - 11 October 1985, while the meeting of government experts of donors and multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions with representatives of LDCs is to be held in May.

62. Further, technical assistance in projects with financial support of UNDP is provided to land-locked countries in Africa within the framework of three subregional projects. Two projects on trade policy and planning for African LDCs and country specific projects in Botswana, Gambia, Mali and Uganda are being implemented.

(b) Commodities

63. While the critical economic situation appears as a food crisis, upon close examination a general failure of agriculture including difficulties in production for export are seen. Africa being a region most dependent upon primary commodity exports - agricultural and mineral - for foreign exchange income, commodity negotiations such as conferences to renew agreements on cocoa, sugar and tin are of importance to African countries. Intergovernmental consultations on copper, cotton and hard fibres are at various stages of progress. The tropical timber agreement although lacking price provisions, incorporates measures to protect and conserve the ecological base of participating countries.

64. The common fund agreement is yet to become operational. However, 44 out of 50 African countries have already signed and 37 ratified it. Those which have not signed or ratified are encouraged to do so since the financial contribution of six of them would be wholly or partly covered by grants by donors and projects for improvement of the production base in areas of vital importance in forestry, livestock and food crops and agricultural raw materials have been identified in expectation of financing from the second account of the common fund when it becomes operational. Work is also being undertaken on compensation of commodity related export earning shortfalls and on processing, marketing and distribution of commodities. New analyses are being undertaken towards national and international action on rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of the commodity sector in Africa.

(c) Monetary and financial issues

65. High priority is placed on analysis and formulation of policies dealing with external financing problems in Africa. UNCTAD continues to assist African countries in negotiating debt rescheduling at Paris Club. Technical assistance is provided to African countries in debt management and establishment of computer debt management systems. UNCTAD also provides data to ECA and OAU secretariats on debt. A project is being initiated on adjustment experience and financial needs in co-operation with African Centre for Monetary Studies. UNCTAD staff have been seconded to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Nairobi.

(d) Transport

66. The supplementary seven million tons of food aid to be imported in 1985 by 20 affected African countries will place severe strain on port facilities and saturation of inland transport flows, negatively affecting cargo flows leading to loss of export markets and heavy demurrage payments. These will need short, medium and longer-term solutions. A transport task force is suggested to improve performance in each transport mode, looking into co-ordination of logistical problems of maritime transport, port facilities, surface transport and distribution of food aid to littoral and land-locked countries. Experts at first stage would look into bulk cargoes and subsequently containerization and multimodal. UNCTAD is seeking ways to implement a pilot scheme whereby such a task force can combine know-how in above areas through ongoing technical assistance projects.

67. For the medium-term, a more systematic approach to strengthening transport management capabilities should be envisaged including rehabilitation of infrastructure, development and improved utilization of fleets and ports and multimodal transport including planning and management thereof, regional and interregional schemes and strengthening of technical assistance in the region. Mention should be made of joint UNCTAD/ECA draft project on multimodal transport submitted to UNDP for two subregional centres in West and East Africa. Training programmes could reinforce managerial skills through TRAIMAR and IPP programmes. In longer-term the adoption of policy measures to promote the development and growth of merchant fleets and permanent improvements in transport infrastructure and capabilities through subregional and regional linkages are necessary.

(e) Technology

68. A strategy for technological transformation of developing countries is being evolved in UNCTAD. Work concerning transfer, application and development of technology in sectors of critical importance such as energy, agro-industries and food processing, pharmaceuticals, capital goods and industrial machinery, etc as well as recently initiated programmes concerning economic, commercial and development aspects of new and emerging technologies are of relevance to development prospects of African countries.

69. Other areas of work in UNCTAD include:

- (1) Establishment of interregional linkages and co-operative arrangements among developing countries, including co-operative exchange of skills;
- (2) Utilization and/or commercialization of technologies, inventions, and research and development results generated by UN system as well as those generated by developing countries themselves (UNCTAD has been designated lead agency for these activities);
- (3) Utilization of technologies in public domain;
- (4) Economic, commercial and developmental aspects of industrial property systems;
- (5) A wide spectrum of technical and operational assistance activities, advisory services, training and information exchange programmes on various subject areas and topics as described above.

70. UNCTAD has consistently given great attention to needs and requirements in the field of technology of African countries, in particular the least developed. A great amount of time and resources are devoted to analytical and diagnostic research, technical assistance projects and programmes, advisory services and numerous training programmes devoted to personnel from African countries and to issues of critical concern to them. UNCTAD co-operates very closely with the African Regional Centre for Technology in matters of common concern to both organizations.

United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

Outline of UNFPA strategy in sub-Saharan Africa

71. The demographic dynamism of Africa today is incomparably greater than that of any other part of the world. Not only did its rate of population growth reach 3.0 per cent in 1984, but, unlike the other developing regions, it should continue to rise until approximately the year 2000, beginning to decline only in the closing years of the twentieth century.

I. PAST ACTIVITIES

72. In the decades of the 1970s and early 1980s, the recognition of the African population issues gradually led to the development of several population activities in the region. UNFPA played a key role in this process, by working with governments initially to promote awareness of population problems and issues and, afterwards, to assist them in designing and implementing programmes tailored to their needs and compatible with their cultural values. UNFPA, upon receiving requests for assistance from countries in the region, geared its responses to the prevailing situation. Only after initial efforts in data collection alerted policy makers to the urgency of their population problems were action-oriented policies pursued.

73. Over the period 1971-1984, UNFPA assistance, cumulatively amounting to \$165 million for project activities, has been substantial and has followed an increasing trend. Of the \$165 million cumulative expenditures, 75 per cent or about \$123 million was used to support country activities and 25 per cent or about \$42 million to support inter-country activities. Most of the projects were executed in collaboration with the various agencies of the UN system including: UNECA, WHO/AFRO, ILO, UNESCO, FAO, UNICEF and also with governments and some non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

74. UNFPA-assisted population programmes during the period included:

- (a) Collection of basic population data;
- (b) Family Planning/Child Spacing;
- (c) Population information, education and communication activities;
- (d) Population dynamics;
- (e) Population policy formulation and implementation;
- (f) Special programme: women;
- (g) Inter-country activities.

## II. FUTURE PROGRAMME STRATEGY

75. In outlining the Fund's assistance programme to the region for the next few years, full consideration has been given to the knowledge and experience gained in Africa, the changes in perception on population by most governments in the region, and the demographic challenges to be confronted in the future. Below are some areas of emphasis as foreseen by the Fund:

(a) UNFPA intends to make an important contribution to increase awareness and understanding of population issues in order to strengthen the governments' commitment to deal with them;

(b) Efforts will be made to increase access both to information on family/child spacing and to services;

(c) Increasing attention will be paid to the formulation and implementation of population policies to enable countries to integrate population measures into their social and economic goals and strategies;

(d) Data collection including census, demographic survey will continue to be supported to increase the efficiency of national development planning and also as a support-activity for the promotion and strengthening of national population policies;

(e) In connexion with efforts in the health sectors, special efforts will be made to ensure the promotion and full participation of women in all aspects of population and development programmes;

(f) Development of human resources to foster national self-reliance and also to ensure successful implementation of population programmes in the region.

## III. PROGRAMME SUPPORT

76. In its continuing efforts to sustain the promotion of population activities and to provide administrative support, the Fund has, over the years, supported, within the UNDP offices, 13 UNFPA Deputy Representatives, two International Programme Officers and 16 National Programme Officers and Assistants. It is intended, in the next few years, to strengthen UNFPA network with additional field staff to cover most of the countries in the region.

UNFPA planned assistance to the African programme  
for the period 1985-1989

<u>Work plan category</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
Basic data collection	\$24 million	16
Population dynamics	\$16 million	11
Formulation and evaluation of population policies and programmes	\$13 million	9
Family planning	\$54 million	37
Information, education and communication	\$29 million	20
Special programmes	\$ 6 million	4
Multi-sector activities	\$ 4 million	3
	<u>\$146 million</u>	<u>100</u>



UNFPA planned assistance to the ten most affected countries  
for the period 1985-1989

<u>Work plan category</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
Basic data collection	\$ 7 million	15
Population dynamics	\$ 4 million	9
Formulation and evaluation of population policies and programmes	\$ 4 million	9
Family planning	\$19 million	40
Information, education and communication	\$11 million	23
Special programmes	\$ 1 million	2
Multi-sector activities	\$ 1 million	2
	<u>\$47 million</u>	<u>100</u>
	=====	=====

## The United Nations University (UNU)

### 1. Fellowship training

77. As of 31 December 1983, there were 87 African scholars from 22 countries who received training under UNU fellowships. Twenty three fellowships were awarded in 1984-1985 distributed in the following areas of study: energy systems programme; food, nutrition, biotechnology and poverty; human social development; resource policy and management.

### 2. The project on Nation-building or Transnationalization in Africa

78. This 5-year project started in 1982 with the main objective of studying the question: To what extent actual development strategies in Africa contribute to a self-reliant type development, which is the necessary condition for nation-building, or to the integration of Africa in the dominant process of transnationalization of economy, culture and politics? With a co-ordinating unit called the "Africa Year 2000" in Dakar, Senegal, 36 researchers from 24 African countries are engaged in the project, working specifically on three themes: 1) state and the peasants, 2) state, natural resources and industrialization strategies in Africa, and 3) state, the social components of the nation and world conflicts.

79. The research of the first phase (1982-1983) of the project was devoted to national and sub-regional case studies on the first and second themes. Two important seminars were organized by the project on the State, Natural Resources and Industrialization in Africa and on the State and the Peasants in Africa in Dakar from 26 January to 1 February 1984. These two seminars concluded the first phase of the project.

80. The next phase of the project (1984-1985) will be devoted to the production of synthesis reports on the following themes:

- (a) The Relationship between Agriculture and Industry in the Development of Africa
- (b) Adjustment to the World System or Delinking?: The Margin of Manoeuvre for African Economics
- (c) Popular Alliances, Alternatives and the State in Africa
- (d) The Social Reproduction
- (e) The Experience and Prospects for Inter-African Co-operation
- (f) The Euro-African Economic Relations: Prospects for the Future
- (g) The State/Social Classes and Development in Africa, the Political Conflicts and the Problems of Peace and Regional Security
- (h) Global Syntheses: National Construction or Transnationalization in Africa.

81. Two books are now in press. They are:

- (a) Steel Industry in Africa by F. Yachir
- (b) The Crisis of Agriculture in Africa by L. Gakou

### 3. Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (INRA)

82. The Lagos Plan of Action emphasizes the paramount importance of systematic and independent use and management of natural resources by the countries and peoples of Africa in order to accelerate their self-reliant development process. To respond to these needs, and building on its initial work in Africa, the UN University has been engaged since mid-1981 in extensive consultations with African scientists and technologists, as well as with leaders and other officials of governments of African countries and various national and international institutions and organizations. A preparatory working group of leading African scientists and technologists was brought together to advise the UN University on the most effective way of dealing with the natural resource development problems besetting the continent. The working group, recommended that the UN University establish a new institution to work closely and effectively with existing institutions and to help attract African scientists and technologists working abroad back to the continent. The institution would operate through a network of programmes, co-operating with existing institutions in Africa in order to strengthen and avoid duplication of effort. It will concentrate on the development of natural resources through the generation and application of scientific knowledge and innovative technological approaches for productive work. The diverse interests and needs of the various African countries call for major efforts in the longer term in the following six priority areas of work: land use; water resources; plant resources; animal resources; mineral resources and energy. Since the scope of these six priority areas is exceedingly broad, the work programme of the Institute will have to focus on clearly identified, specific projects, on a selective and incremental basis.

83. The principle in the selection of INRA projects is that they should affect food and energy production as quickly as possible, in order to persuade African governments to do everything possible to strengthen their existing institutions and to focus their activities on these essential areas. INRA itself should become an effective link between these national institutions and international bodies such as IITA, ILCA, IRRI, etc. The argument that the problems facing Africa with regard to food and energy production will only be solved when institutions of the calibre proposed for INRA are set up in Africa is supported by experience in a number of Asian countries where such institutions have been largely responsible for establishing food security and solving natural resources problems.

84. The need for INRA to have a strong financial base and high quality scientific and technological expertise has been strongly underscored in the course of the University's consultations with various government leaders and heads of international organizations, notably the President of the World Bank and the Administrator of the UNDP, as essential prerequisites for the success of the Institute.

85. The Government of the Ivory Coast has made a generous pledge of US\$5 million to the UN University for the Institute and has offered to provide spacious readily available buildings, laboratories, and other physical facilities as well as housing for the personnel of the Institute within the framework of the modern and up-to-date building complex of the Institut National Supérieur de l'Enseignement Technique (INSET).

86. A number of other African governments, including those of Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Zambia, and Zimbabwe which also initially considered hosting the Institute, have continued to assure the UN University of their support for the Institute and their readiness to co-operate. The UN University is also in the process of concluding a tripartite agreement with the ECA and OAU in order to ensure that INRA will work effectively with other regional institutions throughout the continent. The UN University believes that these commitments of support from the African continent, including the interest expressed by the President of the African Development Bank (ADB), constitute a significant foundation for mobilizing major financial support from bilateral and multilateral sources outside Africa.

#### 4. Joint AAU-UNU African Regional Food and Nutrition Project

87. The AAU and UNU are in the process of preparing a detailed work-plan for the first tranche of the US\$7 million budget of this project. During its initial phase, the project will concentrate on post-harvest food technologies in relation to nutritional needs in order to complement the work done by other agencies in food strategies and policies and in nutrition and health. The work-plan will include research and development work, advanced training, and exchange of knowledge and experience in such priority areas as food grains, roots and tubers, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables, and animal products. The project will help build endogenous scientific and technological capacities in Africa in these priority areas of action in post-harvest food technologies. The project is expected to contribute to:

- (a) Reducing poverty and raising the nutritional standards of the rural and urban population and reducing migration.
- (b) Contributing to the overall food security and building stocks for emergency use at national and regional levels.
- (c) Prevention of post-harvest losses which are estimated to be 30-50 per cent and lead further to deterioration in quality and standards of safety. Even if 25 per cent of these losses could be prevented, Africa can become self-sufficient without additional demand on land and high cost inputs into production.
- (d) Generation of employment through the development of food industries, especially in the rural areas, that would supplement and complement the income from agriculture. It is well known that per unit of investment in post-harvest conservation industries generate the largest employment.
- (e) Stimulation of agricultural production by assuring better markets for the produce and strengthening linkages with the agro-industrial system for socio-economic transformation of the subsistence agricultural economies.
- (f) Export of finished products with added value of 50-500 per cent instead of raw materials which in most cases are perishable. This can contribute to better balance of trade and provide additional development resources, including foreign exchange.

88. In addition to the work being done in the University's various programme networks, its first research and training centre, WIDER, located in Helsinki, Finland, is expected to study some aspects of the hunger and poverty problems of Africa. There are also other special programmes of the University that are concerned with contributing to the search for means of successfully implementing solutions to Africa's present crisis that have been identified by African themselves.

World Tourism Organization (WTO)

89. Because of the smallness of this Organization as well as because of the fact that the importance of tourism in social and economic development can only be appreciated at the medium and long-term, WTO's response to the present critical economic situation in Africa cannot constitute an immediate action for solving the crisis.

90. However, WTO has always been concerned with the African difficulties. The activities of this Organization have always tended to offer to Africa the most special treatment within our statutory and financial possibilities. Studies, technical meetings, fellowships granted at the International Centre for Advanced Tourism Studies (CIEST), sectoral support missions, special fellowships granted to African officials at WTO's Secretariat, operational missions, statistical support, etc., have been very carefully planned and have increased all through WTO's life for coping with the alarming situation in Africa.

91. It was in this spirit that the Regional Conference on Intra-African tourism cooperation (Niamey, 2-6 October 1984) adopted a resolution creating a permanent coordination structure, at the highest level, identified as "Conference of African Tourism Ministers". The setting up of this new mechanism is entrusted to the Executive Secretary of ECA and to the Secretary-General of WTO in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

92. WTO's action in Africa is not essentially concerned with touristical movements in their strict sense, i.e. the movements of holiday-makers. The returns originated by those holiday-makers are not an actual result of a given production capacity, but the expression of special circumstances the base of which is the nature, the climate and the services offered to the traveller. All these factors depend to a great extent on the political, military and social stability as well as on the economical crisis and often on natural catastrophes.

93. For this reason, in Africa like everywhere else, WTO considers, to an even greater extent, the movements of persons irrespective of their travel obligations or motivations for staying in a given country. WTO also considers that the touristical lodging services, catering, transport, organization, as well as other complementary services related with tourism really obtain their benefits from travel in general and not exclusively from travel related to holidays.

94. Moreover, the new approach to tourism as movements of persons has an additional connotation from the economic development standpoint: its intrinsic capacity for creating jobs in the very many fields related to travelling and, most especially, in stimulating the activities of small and medium enterprises. This is why much more thorough consideration of travel development in general in order to accelerate the cash flow and to increase all kinds of exchanges is, in our opinion, much more realistic than the movements of holiday makers alone.

95. It is with this objective in mind that WTO intends to act in the field of activity which is its institutional mandate so that movements of persons, travelling and tourism will not be considered as a frivolous activity, often marginal with respect to actions undertaken by national communities, but instead as an important factor of development since through the creation of employment one can effectively create a basis for such development.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS)

96. The impacts of the critical economic and social crisis that have been affecting much of the African continent over the last decade are now of world-wide concern. Human settlements, being the physical and social context in which all life's activities take place, have like all other contexts, been seriously affected. In fact, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has calculated that those people who have been forced to leave their homes as a result of fighting and lack of food have constituted the largest group of urgent need in shelter, protection, and medical assistance. According to a recent United Nations report on the Emergency Situation in Africa, out of the 150 million people living in drought-stricken countries, some 30 million may be seriously affected and, of this number, it is now estimated that over 10 million people have had to abandon homes and lands in search of food, shelter, water and pasture for their herds.

97. Based on UNCHS (Habitat's) appraisal of human settlements trends in Africa, some of the major long-term inter-related causes and problems may be identified as:

(a) the very high rate of urbanization, accompanied by a stagnating rural sector;

(b) over-centralization of service and administrative functions in the capital cities;

(c) inadequate availability of trained manpower and institutions capable of effectively executing development programmes; and

(d) failure of most countries to adopt and implement a national spatial policy providing a framework for balanced development.

By far the most important of these phenomena and one with the most ramifying effects is the very rapid rate of urbanization, which in some instances had already become a crisis by itself before the current ecological and socio-economic crisis.

98. Thirty-five major African cities are currently increasing at a rate which will be doubling their population size every nine years. There are now 28 African cities of over one million inhabitants where, just 20 years ago, there were only three. By the year 2000, at least eight African cities will exceed the five million mark.

99. These conditions are obviously placing considerable strains on national and local governments, their institutions, machinery and resources, for example, in the production of shelter, the provision of infrastructure and the delivery of other urban public services.



Immediate and long-term responses of UNCHS (HABITAT) to the crisis

100. In response to the human settlements crisis which in certain instances antedates the current economic and social crisis in Africa, the UNCHS (Habitat) had already been striving in several ways to assist African governments tackle these problems. The current economic and social crisis has simply focussed UNCHS (Habitat's) attention to the necessity and urgency of increasing and expediting such assistance in different human settlements areas. UNCHS (Habitat) has therefore stepped up its human settlements activities in Africa in general and in the more seriously affected countries of the continent in particular. 41 per cent of the Centre's total on-going technical assistance projects are in the Africa region alone and 45 per cent of the projects prepared and awaiting implementation are also in the Africa region. At the beginning of 1985, the UNCHS (Habitat) was implementing 61 on-going projects in 34 African countries with a budget totalling \$US8.62 million for 1985, which will increase during the year to over \$US10 million. In addition, 41 projects have been prepared and are ready for implementation as soon as funds become available.

101. In the long-term context of human settlements, UNCHS (Habitat) is providing research, training, technical support and information to governments in various aspects of human settlements problems. These include assisting governments in the formulation and execution of strategies and procedures for the mobilization of the informal sector, using self-help and public participation techniques in the improvement of shelter and community services. UNCHS (Habitat) also provides support to African Governments in the area of research in indigenous building materials and techniques and in the promotion of utilization of indigenous materials and technologies for human settlements development and improvement. The activities and programmes of assistance cover the eight subject areas which constitute the basis of the work programme of UNCHS (Habitat):

- (1) Settlement policies and strategies;
- (2) Settlement planning;
- (3) Shelter and community services;
- (4) Development of the indigenous construction sector;
- (5) Low cost infrastructure for human settlements;
- (6) Land;
- (7) Mobilization of finance for human settlements development;
- (8) Human settlements institutions and management.

102. UNCHS (Habitat) like other agencies of the United Nations system, has undertaken research, planning and special advisory services as well as demonstration projects, aimed at encouraging and assisting African Governments to redirect their policy orientation and emphasis towards utilizing more fully, the potentials for improvement, present in squatter settlements as well as to adopt realistic local building standards and to pursue land use and tenure policies that encourage self-help efforts.

103. In line with the aspirations of the Lagos Plan of Action and in response to the worsened economic and social situation in many countries of Africa, as well as in response to the United Nations system's initiatives to tackle these problems, UNCHS (Habitat) in its assistance activities, has paid priority attention to:

- (i) African Least Developed Countries;
- (ii) Countries affected by natural and man-made disasters;
- (iii) Countries needing urgent assistance in the area of institution-building, strengthening and management; and
- (iv) Countries which are victims of apartheid and colonialism.

Emphasis has in this context been given to rural settlements development as well. UNCHS (Habitat) is currently executing 16 projects in this area in Africa.

104. The special attention to Least Developed Countries (LDC's) of the region is evident from the fact that UNCHS (Habitat) is currently assisting 23 of the 26 African LDC's with 35 operational projects while 31 projects have been prepared for implementation as soon as funds become available. Projects are currently on-going in Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape-Verde, Chad, Comoros, Guinea, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Sao-Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Projects have been prepared and are awaiting implementation in Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape-verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda. The subject areas for the on-going and proposed human settlements projects in favour of African LDC's as of 1985 were settlement policies and strategies, settlement planning, shelter and community services, development of the indigenous construction sector, and low cost infrastructure for human settlements.

105. In the case of assistance to countries affected by natural and man-made disasters, a few of the many examples include:

- (1) Assistance to Algeria in the reconstruction of the region and City of Chleff (formerly El-Asnam) devastated by an earthquake in 1980.
- (2) Assistance to Egypt in the reconstruction of flood protection for flood inundated villages in Upper Egypt;
- (3) Assistance to Chad in the reconstruction of the capital city of N'Djamena;
- (4) Assistance to Swaziland in the rehabilitation of cyclone damages to human settlements;
- (5) Assistance to Uganda in the reconstruction of the war-damaged towns of Masaka and Mbarara.

106. UNCHS (Habitat) has also given special attention and technical assistance to peoples and countries affected by apartheid or colonialism. In addition to two assistance projects to the two South African National Liberation Movements - the ANC and the PAC, UNCHS (Habitat) is executing a total of 16 projects in the "frontline States" of Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe with a total budget of nearly US dollars 3 million. Four other projects with a total budget upon completion of over US dollars 10 million have been prepared for implementation in these countries.

107. Concerning development of human settlements institutions and management capacities in African countries, UNCHS (Habitat) has 12 on-going projects in Africa and 12 more have been prepared for implementation as soon as funds become available. It is also in pursuit of this long-term and self-sustaining objective that UNCHS (Habitat) has maintained a vigorous training and fellowship programme and has made training a component of many of its technical co-operation projects. As an indication of the scale of the UNCHS (Habitat) effort in this area a total of 91 students from 14 different African countries were placed in 19 training institutions in the framework of the training component of UNCHS (Habitat) technical co-operation projects as at the end of 1984. This is in addition to the large number of African participants who benefit annually from specific training activities organized by UNCHS (Habitat) - which for example included four special training courses in 1984 specifically for African participants.

108. In addition to the above activities, UNCHS (Habitat) is vigorously implementing the 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH), a year designated by the United Nations for purposes of focussing world attention on and sensitizing world opinion to the persistent and growing shelter and human settlements needs of the homeless, the poor and the disadvantaged - whose ranks are being augmented in Africa by the current crisis. Under the IYSH programme, Governments are expected to identify and designate human settlement demonstration programmes or projects whose distinguishing feature would be their replicability, with demonstrable feasible options for meeting the basic needs of the homeless. As of 31 January 1985, a total of 135 IYSH projects had been identified in 60 countries of the world. 72 of these projects are in 28 African countries.

#### Experiences and lessons

109. Some of the experiences regarding national policy and institutional constraints which impeded productivity and effective management of human settlements, particularly in this time of crisis include:

- (i) land for human settlements development. Land assembly processes are too slow and cumbersome. In both countries where land is in publicly owned and managed and in those in which land is in private ownership, it takes an unduly long time - generally two to four years - for intending builders to be able to secure land. Much of this bottleneck is accounted for by administrative delays in the processing of land assembly/allocation, which is generally highly centralized;

- (ii) planning and building codes, regulations and standards. In most countries of the African region, existing housing and human settlements planning and building standards, including permissible building materials, are foreign-derived and have been applied without adequate modifications to take account of the local weather or climate, materials and technology, culture, etc, and generally in an inflexible manner over the years;
- (iii) too much centralization in human settlements management and administration, in a situation where the institutional capacity and machinery to deal with issues expeditiously is already still too weak.

110. Based on the foregoing, it is suggested that for a more effective response to the prevailing critical situation in the human settlements sector; certain policy and administrative adjustments be effected by Governments. Such policy and administrative adjustments should include:

- (i) Rationalization of land assembly and land processing procedures so that people could more easily acquire security to land on which to build their shelter;
- (ii) Revision of existing foreign-derived building codes, regulations, standards, and other planning regulations to suit the local situation.

111. UNCHS (Habitat) will continue its efforts within the limits of its resources, to assist and support African Governments in various aspects of human settlements, planning development and management, both in the immediate and long-term. In doing so, it will continue to co-operate and co-ordinate with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, so as to minimize the negative impacts of the economic, social and ecological crisis in Africa.

## ANNEX

Additional outputs in Food and Agriculture  
in Africa and Environment in Africa<sup>1/</sup>

I. Food and Agriculture in Africa

Twenty additional outputs, shown below have already been undertaken, and that number is expected to rise sharply following the decisions of the Heads of State and Government in July 1985.

Programme element 1.1: Improving the capacity for agricultural planning and policies:

(a) Reports

- (i) Reports to the ECA Conference of Ministers and the Economic and Social Council on the situation of Food and agriculture in Africa (May 1984 and June 1984);
- (ii) Report to the ECA Conference of Ministers on the apparent discrepancy between increasing resource allocation to the food and agriculture sector and the declining performance of the sector (1984);
- (iii) Report to the meeting of the Second OAU Interministerial Committee on food and the meeting of the Tenth Session of the World Food Council on the African Food Crisis: basis for an action programme (June 1984);
- (iv) Report to the governors of the African Development Bank on the African food crisis and the role of the African Development Bank in tackling it (jointly with OAU and ADB) (May 1984).

(b) Technical publication

Manpower training with particular emphasis on project preparation, appraisal and implementation (1984).

Programme element 1.4: Improved policies and programmes for conservation and development of forest and land resources.

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<sup>1/</sup> Details on other additional outputs and reformulated activities are provided in document E/ECA/CM.11/55, Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1984-1985.

Report

Report to the Conference of Ministers of PTA on the role of forests in the PTA countries (1984).

Programme element 2.1: Promotion of integrated rural development.

Technical publications

- (i) Co-operation in trade as well as food and agricultural production among Egypt, the Sudan, Morocco and Tunisia (March 1984);
- (ii) Rural institutions and supporting services in Egypt, the Sudan, Morocco and Tunisia (March 1984);
- (iii) A comprehensive recovery programme for food and agricultural development in Chad (March 1984).

Programme element 2.2: Improvement of agricultural institutions and services.

Technical publications

- (i) Macro-economic review of the Ethiopian highlands (1984);
- (ii) Evaluation study of the Ethiopian resettlement programme (1984).

Programme element 2.4: Multinational co-operation projects and programmes for the improvement of livestock.

(a) Reports

- (i) Report to the Council of Ministers of the Niamey-based MULPOC on the production and consumption of, and trade in, livestock products and by-products in West Africa (1984);
- (ii) Report to the Council of Ministers of the Niamey-based MULPOC on harmonization of agricultural pricing policies in West Africa (1984);
- (iii) Report to the Conference of Ministers of ECA on expert consultation on livestock research and development in Africa (1984);
- (iv) Report to the Conference of Ministers of ECA on the implementation of resolution 463 (XVIII) on assistance to the African livestock sector (1984).

(b) Technical publication

Strengthening co-operation between Egypt and the Sudan in the livestock cereal subsectors (1985).

## II. Environment in Africa

Five additional outputs are expected, as follows:

- (i) Substantive servicing of the Scientific Round Table on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa (Addis Ababa, 20-23 February 1984), in keeping with resolution 473 (XVIII) of the ECA Conference of Ministers;
- (ii) Report to the Scientific Round Table on the impacts of and responses to drought on the socio-economic systems in Africa (first quarter 1984);
- (iii) Report to the ECA Conference of Ministers on feasibility studies to establish an advanced centre for meteorology in Africa, as requested by resolution 528 (XIX) on meteorological services for drought in Africa (1985);
- (iv) Substantive servicing of the third meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment (third quarter 1985);
- (v) Substantive servicing of ECA/UNDRO/OAU Meeting on natural disasters prevention and prediction in Africa (24-25 February 1984).